

Salvation According to Scripture

Responding to the Gospel

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry
Bixby, Oklahoma



Book 2 - Chapter 02 - Study 02

***Repentance - A Complete Change of
Direction***

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Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

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READ THIS FIRST

Before continuing, remember what was already established in the previous studies.

John Doe's story is not finished.

The questions raised in his salvation story were not random questions, they were biblical questions. Questions many believers avoid, delay, or dismiss because they disturb what they already assume to be true.

In the previous studies, we examined belief, the gospel, false assurance, and the danger of trusting feelings over Scripture.

Now the examination continues.

This study is not asking whether repentance sounds important.

It is asking something far more serious:

What does Scripture actually mean when it commands a person to repent?

Is repentance merely emotion?

Is it simply admitting wrongdoing?

Is it only a mental agreement?

Or is repentance an actual turning toward God that affects obedience, direction, and the way a person lives?

As you continue through this study, do not examine John Doe only.

Examine yourself.

Because if repentance is truly part of the biblical response to the gospel, then the question is no longer whether repentance should exist.

The question becomes whether it truly exists in you.

A Word Almost Everyone Uses

Nearly every church speaks about repentance.

Most believers claim they have repented.

Yet if ten Christians were asked to define repentance, many would give ten different answers.

Some say repentance is feeling sorry.

Some say it is admitting wrongdoing.

Some say it is simply changing your mind.

Some say it is turning from sin.

Some say it is unnecessary because faith alone already saved them.

But what does Scripture actually say?

Before examining John Doe's repentance, we must first determine what repentance is.

Repentance throughout the Bible is a summons to a personal, absolute, and ultimate unconditional surrender to God as Sovereign. Though it includes sorrow and regret, it is more than that. ... In repenting, one makes a complete change of direction (180° turn) toward God.

John the Baptist preached repentance.

Matt 3:1-2 (KJV) In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Also found in, Mark 1:4, Luke 3:3

Christ preached repentance

Mat 4:17 (KJV) From that time Christ began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

The apostles preached repentance

Mark 6:12 (KJV) And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

We are commanded to repent

Acts 17:30 (KJV) And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:
Also found in, Mark 1:15, Acts 2:38

We must repent to be converted.

Acts 3:19 (KJV) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

If we repent and turn to God, our sins may be blotted out.

Acts 3:19 (KJV) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; Also found in, Acts 8:22,

We must repent and be baptized in order to receive remission of sins. In other words, we will receive remission for our sins, “if” or “as long as” we repent and are baptized.

Acts 2:38 (KJV) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:38 connects repentance and baptism to the remission of sins.

Acts 2:38 (KJV) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The verse does not present repentance by itself as the complete response.

Why Does Modern Christianity Minimize Repentance?

If repentance is repeatedly commanded by Christ, the apostles, and Scripture, why do so many modern salvation presentations barely mention it?

Why do some present repentance as optional?

Why do others redefine repentance so that no actual turning is required?

Before dismissing repentance as unnecessary, the believer must honestly ask:

Why did Christ preach it?

Why did the apostles preach it?

Why does Scripture command it?

Instead, it connects repentance, baptism, remission of sins, and the receiving of the Holy Ghost together within the same command.

This study is not teaching salvation by human merit or personal righteousness.

Rather, it is examining whether modern teachings have removed biblical responses and conditions that God Himself commanded.

If we don't repent, we will not receive salvation

Luke 13:3 (KJV) I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Also found in, Luke 13:5, Revelation 2:16, Rev 2:22, Rev 3:3

Repentance comes before conversion.

Acts 3:19 (KJV) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

2 Cor 7:10 (KJV) For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Repentance comes before works that demonstrate repentance.

Acts 26:20 (KJV) But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

John the Baptist also commanded:

“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.” Matthew 3:8
Biblical repentance eventually becomes visible through a changed direction, growing obedience, and a life increasingly submitted to God.

Repentance does not come alone, there are other things God requires of us in order to show repentance.

Works: Acts 26:20 (KJV) But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Repentance is not merely feeling bad.

Many people experience guilt, fear, regret, shame, or emotional sorrow without ever truly turning to God.

Pharaoh admitted wrongdoing when judgment came upon Egypt, yet, returned to rebellion once the pressure was removed.

Saul confessed sin before men while still protecting his own will and reputation.

Judas felt sorrow after betraying Christ, yet sorrow alone did not produce obedience and life.

Biblical repentance is not simply feeling convicted.

Repentance produces a real turning toward God that affects the direction of a person's life, choices, obedience, and submission to

truth. Repentance also involves turning away from sin, rebellion, and deliberate disobedience toward God.

Let's now compare John Doe's salvation story to what Scripture actually says.

Important Reminder:

John Doe's story was already examined earlier in this series.

We are not determining his entire salvation from this one study alone.

Each study examines one biblical requirement at a time and compares John Doe's response to what Scripture actually says.

Previous studies examined belief and the gospel itself.

This study is examining repentance.

Future studies will examine baptism, conversion, remission of sins, the Holy Ghost, obedience, faith, works, and other biblical requirements connected to salvation.

As each study progresses, bring your previous conclusions and check marks forward so that the entire picture can be examined step by step through Scripture.

All we are looking for in this study is whether repentance is truly present in John Doe's response to the gospel.

Check mark only the things that you can clearly verify through Scripture as we continue.

This is what we have so for John Doe: Bring your check marks over from prior studies. Check mark only the ones that you can verify with scriptures as we go. And add any that he might have missed.

- ☐ He believes Christ is the Son of God.
- ☐ He believes Christ died for all our past sins.
- ☐ He believes Christ resurrected 3 days later.
- ☐ He believes that Christ is sitting on the right-hand side of the Father interceding for us!
- ☐ He confessed Christ as Lord and Savior (Through sinner's prayer).
- ☐ He confessed himself as a sinner (Through sinner's prayer).
- ☐ He repented of his sins. (For the purpose of this study, let us temporarily assume that John Doe truly repented. However, before placing a check mark beside repentance, we must first determine whether the evidence presented in his story actually demonstrates repentance according to Scripture.)
- ☐ He asked for forgiveness (Through sinner's prayer).
- ☐ He called upon the Lord into his life (Through sinner's prayer).
- ☐ He was baptized as a baby, by sprinkle!

These are the things that are questionable in John Doe's walk, so you must decide whether he has covered that area or not.

- ☐ He must believe that Christ is the "only begotten" Son of God. John 3:18, Acts 8:37.
- ☐ He must believe in the Son and the Father. John 5:24, John 6:47.
- ☐ He must believe that God the Father raised Christ from the dead. Rom 10:9, 1 Thes 4:14.
- ☐ We have learned that the scriptures actually tell us that our salvation is nearer the moment we believe, and because we believe that Christ is the only begotten Son of God and believe in the name of the son of God, and believe in the Father as well as the Son, we become sealed with God's promise of salvation until the day we are saved!
- ☐ We also see that Baptism may be as important as believing Mark 16:16.

This opens more questions.

Consider the following carefully:

If repentance comes only after salvation, why did Christ command people to repent before entering the kingdom?

If a person can receive salvation without repentance, then why did Christ Himself warn that those who do not repent will perish?

If repentance automatically happens later, why are believers repeatedly commanded to repent throughout Scripture?

And if repentance is only a change of mind without a true turning toward God, then why does Scripture repeatedly connect repentance with conversion, obedience, works, and turning from sin?

Can repentance exist while a person intentionally refuses to submit to what God has already shown him?

Is baptism Necessary for salvation?

Is repentance the same as a change of mind, or something deeper?

If we need to be baptized, does it have to be with water?

Does Baptism have a purpose and a meaning or is it really just an outward expression of faith?

Do we have to be baptized in the correct way?

Are works needed to show repentance?

Are works needed for salvation?

We must repent to be converted. Acts 3:19, what is conversion?

According to the conclusions reached in the previous studies, belief alone did not complete every biblical response and condition connected to salvation.

Therefore, John Doe is now being examined step by step through the remaining biblical requirements.

- By repenting, JD is being obedient to God. Mark 1:15, Acts 2:38
- If we don't repent, we will not receive salvation. Luke 13:3, Luke 13:5, Revelation 2:16, Rev 2:22, Rev 3:3

A person may claim to have repented while continuing to willingly live in adultery, pornography, drunkenness, hatred, rebellion, greed, or deliberate disobedience toward God without resistance, conviction, or change.

But Scripture forces an important question:

Is repentance merely acknowledging sin exists?

Or does repentance produce an actual turning toward God and away from sin?

This does not mean a repentant person becomes instantly perfect.

But it does mean repentance changes direction.

Does John Doe Show Evidence of Repentance?

John Doe claimed that the requirements shown to him were "too much."

He admitted that scriptures were presented to him.

He admitted help was offered.

Yet he chose to walk away because it did not feel right.

Based only upon what has been examined so far:

Does this demonstrate a turning toward God?

Or a turning away from further examination?

Explain your answer using Scripture.

Based upon the scriptures examined in this study, can a person continue moving in the same direction while claiming to have repented?

Why or why not?

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

CONTINUE CAREFULLY

Repentance is easy to claim.
It is much harder to examine.

Many people can remember a prayer.
Many can remember tears.
Many can remember conviction.
Many can remember regret.
But Scripture does not ask whether repentance was felt.
It asks whether repentance occurred.

A person may feel sorrow and never turn.

A person may confess sin and never surrender.

A person may fear judgment and still refuse God's authority.

Repentance is not measured by emotion.
It is measured by direction.

As you continue examining John Doe's salvation story, do not ask
only whether he believed.

Do not ask only whether he felt conviction.
Ask whether he truly turned toward God.
Then ask the same question of yourself.

Truth does not fear examination.
Error does.

NEXT STEP

The next study continues the examination of John Doe's salvation story.

Do not separate this study from the one before it or the one after it.

Each study is building a complete biblical picture, one step at a time.

Bring your conclusions forward.

Bring your check marks forward.

Bring your questions forward.

But do not bring assumptions forward as truth.

If something remains unclear, go back.

Read again.

Test every verse.

Confirm every conclusion.

Then continue in order.

NEED HELP?

You were not meant to examine these things carelessly or alone.

If you have questions, need clarification, or want to go through these studies with someone, reach out.

We will study the Scriptures with you step by step, so that what you believe is not built on fear, emotion, tradition, or man's opinion, but on the Word of God.

If what you believe is true, it will stand.

If it is not, it must fall.

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry

Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and calling believers back to the foundation laid by God in Zion, the doctrine of Christ delivered through His apostles.



You Should Have Already Verified and Tested:

B2-C01-S07 - A Common Salvation Story Examined

B2-C01-S08 - Why Feelings Cannot Be Trusted for Salvation

B2-C01-S09 - When Doubt Is a Call to Examine, Not to Fear

B2-C01-S10 - Believing Nearer to Salvation, Not Saved

B2-C02-S01 - The Gospel of Christ and the Authority of His Name

You Are Here:

B2-C02-S02 - Repentance: A Complete Change of Direction

Your Next Study:

B2-C02-S03 - Faith That Leads to Salvation

And Then:

B2-C02-S04 - Grace and Mercy Within God's Conditions

B2-C02-S05 - Confessing Christ According to Scripture

B2-C02-S06 - A Good Conscience Toward God

B2-C03-S01 - Remission of Sins When God Erases the Past

B2-C03-S02 - Baptism God's Appointed Moment of Remission

B2-C03-S04 - Answering the Objections to Baptism and Salvation

B2-C03-S05 - Examining Your Salvation According to Scripture

B2-C03-S06 - Conversion from Belief to a Changed Life

B2-C03-S07 - Enduring to the End Salvation Maintained by Faithfulness

B2-C03-S08 - Measuring What You Once Believed Against Scripture

